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A N E C D O T E S

O F T H E

FIVE MUSIC-MEETINGS,

On Account of the Charitable Foundations

At *C H U R C H - L A N G T O N .*



(Price One Shilling.)



A N E C D O T E S
O F T H E
FIVE MUSIC-MEETINGS,
On ACCOUNT of the
CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS
A T
CHURCH LANGTON:
I N W H I C H
Many Misrepresentations, and Gross Falsehoods,
Contained in a BOOK, intitled,
The HISTORY of the above Foundations,
Are fully Detected, and Confuted,
UPON INDUBITABLE EVIDENCE.
With an A P P E N D I X,
C O N T A I N I N G,
Several Original LETTERS with REMARKS.

By W. HAYES, Doc. Mus.
Organist, and Music-Professor in the University of OXFORD.

*He that is first in his own cause, seemeth just; but his neighbour
cometh and searcheth him.*

PROVERBS.

O X F O R D,

Printed by W. JACKSON: Sold by J. FLETCHER and Co. in
St. Paul's Church-Yard; and J. WALTER, at Charing-Cross,
London; and by D. PRINCE, and the other Booksellers in
Oxford. 1768.

ANECDOTES
OF THE
FIVE MUSIC-MEETINGS



CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS
CHURCH LAMPTON

Many Manuscripts, and other valuable
documents in a book, printed
The HISTORY of the above Foundations,
Are fully Detailed, and Contained
UPON INDUBITABLE EVIDENCE
With an APPENDIX

Several Original Letters with REMARKS

By W. HAYES, D.D. M.A.
Of the University of Cambridge

Printed by W. F. G. at the University Press, Cambridge

OXFORD

Printed by W. F. G. at the University Press, Cambridge
In the Strand, London, and at the University Press, Oxford



ANECDOTES, &c.

HAVING been informed that the Reverend Mr. Hanbury had published a book entitled, *The History of the Rise and Progress of the charitable Foundations at Church-Langton*, and that mention was made therein of my name, to the disadvantage of my reputation, it naturally excited my curiosity to see it. Upon enquiry, finding the price of it to be no less than six shillings, and looking upon *that* as too exorbitant for a book which probably would afford neither entertainment or improvement, and which, according to the title, must chiefly be the trumpet to the founder's own praise, sounded most powerfully by himself, it deterred me from being a purchaser: however a friend, to whom one of them had been given, was so obliging, sometime after, to lend it me.

It will easily be imagined, that little time elapsed before I gave it a perusal. I soon dis-

B

covered

covered that the main drift of this publication, next to the motive above hinted, was to gratify *pique* and *resentment* ; to blacken and calumniate all those whose sentiments happened not to coincide with his ; and who, although they might have approved of his first plan, or design, yet had too much discretion to approve of, and too much firmness to comply with, every chimerical, absurd, or unreasonable measure of his proposing.

It is levelled, principally, at his first set of Trustees, men of the most respectable characters ; and at the conductor of his musical performances, who esteems it an honour to be in so good company. Perhaps the former, may look upon this treatment as a matter of indifference ; but it is, by no means, such with respect to me : for, as, in some measure, my bread depends upon the favour of the public, to which I have ever paid the utmost regard, and can never be too thankful to the Almighty, for that portion of it, which he, in his great goodness, hath allotted me, it behoveth me to support such a character, as, in some degree, may be deserving of it ; should I, therefore, suffer so great an injury to pass unnoticed, my very silence, probably, would be construed into an acknowledgement of my guilt. For this reason, I beg the candid reader's patience, whilst the several passages, wherein he hath falsely, and wrongfully accused me, are pointed out ; and the facts so illiberally represented, are placed in a proper light, so

as



as to appear in their genuine colours, not doubting, if granted, but he will be sufficiently convinced, that the accuser, and he only, is worthy of blame.

Perhaps it may be deemed presumption in me, to enter the list with this GOLIATH, who, armed *cap a pie* in his self-sufficiency, bids defiance to all the world; me, who, compared to him, am but a stripling, a Dock or Nettle to the Oak that shades them, and unaccustomed to wield the weapons of the literary combat; he a warrior from his youth, and now vauntingly boasteth of having overcome every Antagonist who dared to oppose him: however, trusting in the goodness of my cause; though sensible of my own inability, I despair not of finding a small, smooth stone, which, sent from the sling of veracity, may have its due weight and efficacy.

In the course of the following narrative it will be necessary to rectify a few mistakes; which, although they very little affect me, yet, will serve to convince the reader, that the Author of the History does not always adhere strictly to truth, and that he will not stick at telling a Fib, now and then, to serve his own purpose.

The first which occurs, is no less than an imposition upon the public: for in his Advertisement, dated June 16, 1761, after mentioning what the performances were to be, viz. JUDAS MACHABÆUS, MESSIAH, and SAMSON,

and the Days on which they were to be performed, there follows a " *N. B.* The extraordinary approbation with which these kinds of *sacred composition* have been conducted at Church-Langton, makes it needless to add any thing more than to assure the public, that the same capital hands and voices as before are engaged for the above performances."

Whereas, the first principal Singer, and the principal Violoncello, with some others of the band were changed; particularly Miss Thomas for Master Millard, who sung her part not only at this meeting, but that at Leicester and Nottingham, the two succeeding years. Mr. Paxton was also changed for Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Jenkins for Mr. Willis, who was second Trumpet. The other alterations I do not exactly remember, however, these material ones, are sufficient to prove that the *capital performers* were not the same as before.

In giving an account of the success with which each day's performance was attended, he says " The third day's performance was obliged to be altered, some parts of that noble oratorio of Samson, being found wanting or incorrect: and Esther was, by the desire of Dr. Hayes, substituted in its room." Not so indeed; there were no parts found wanting or incorrect; neither was it by my desire that Esther was substituted in the room of Samson; it was a moot point to me which of them should be done. I only took the freedom of mentioning

mentioning the *Philistine jollity* in the latter, leaving him to judge, how well it would suit with the sacred place where it was to be exhibited.

This might be one reason for the alteration, but there is still a more prevailing one behind. It was at the same time represented to him, that Samson required almost double the number of principal fingers hitherto engaged; and that it would not be in our power to find a person capable of undertaking the part of Micah (as it really would not have been) within a reasonable distance, or upon the very moderate terms he required. Had Mrs. Scot (the most equal to it of any) been engaged for that part, it is probable that her pay would have been nearly equal to that of the whole set of principal fingers beside. For these prudential reasons I *advised* him to make choice of Esther: and this out of the most friendly motive, and the sincerest regard to the Charity, to which I have ever been an hearty well-wisher.

After telling us that the public were made acquainted with the alteration, by advertisement, he proceeds thus. " But some how or other, " a notion prevailed that Esther was not worth " the hearing; so that the audience for the " third day amounted to no more than about " an hundred and twenty people. This alteration (which was owing to Dr. Hayes, *who* " found the Books) was a considerable loss to " the scheme; and notwithstanding we had " three

“ three oratorios, upon summing up our expences and profits, we were found only fifteen pounds and a few shillings gainers.” As to the notion which he says prevailed, that Esther was not worth the hearing, I can only say, that if any such notion did prevail, it must be owing to himself, who was the only person I heard object to it ; and was, perhaps, almost the only person in that part of the world who had heard it. Upon what he founded his prejudice, I know not ; but since it stood so low in his estimation, why was it reserved to be the *last* performance of the three ? surely it would have been wiser, and more politic, to have placed it either first or second ; whilst the appetite of the audience was keen and unsated, when probably it would have been extremely well relished by them ; than to bring it on (un-inviting as he thought it to be) after they had been feasting for two days upon the richest and most delicious fare that could be provided for them.

It is not to be doubted, that had the former method been adopted (according to my advice) but the whole would have been better attended, and the scheme sustained less damage, at least, if not considerably benefitted.

If there were fifteen pounds and some shillings over and above the expences, how came it to pass that several persons concerned in the performances went unpaid, not only their present gratuity, but even the arrears due to them
for

for former attendance? At that time, I had not received all the money due to me and the boys, at the first and second meeting; and now, was obliged to give him credit for more. It is true, when these performances were over, I obtained his *note-of-hand* for the whole sum due; which then amounted to thirty-four pounds: However, no notice was taken of the payment thereof, until I made a demand of it by letter (having been advised so to do) on the approach of our Meeting at Leicester the summer following. The answer to which was extremely vague, and by no means satisfactory; it amounting to no more than *if matters turned out well at Leicester, it should be paid*. Upon this I sent him another letter, couched in more peremptory terms than the former, wherein the previous payment of the *note*, was made the condition of my attending that meeting; which was rather displeasing to him: for he could not help making a few angry remarks, and calling it shameful, and unbecoming a Gentleman; however, he immediately proceeded to business, in a very cool and proper manner, telling me the days which had been thought of for the Oratorios, provided they would be convenient to me and the London performers; and if not, what other weeks would serve the purpose as well, &c. &c. If this had been done previous to the Nottingham meeting the year following, how much trouble had been saved, and disgrace prevented, on
both

both sides. Moreover, he told me the money was then ready, and that if I would draw upon him immediately, or would contrive any other method of getting it paid, it should be answered. Nevertheless he seemed desirous to put off the payment 'till the Leicester meeting, and concluded his letter with a very civil invitation to his house, in my way thither. But as the bird in hand is worth two in the bush, I preferred a draught payable in London; which accordingly was sent, and it met with due honour.

Mr. Hanbury well knows, as also the Reverend Messieurs Croker and Griffin, his friends, who assisted him, to what mean and pitiful shifts he was driven, at the first meeting, to eke out the money, so as to be able to pay those performers who could not afford, and those who refused, to give him credit: for, notwithstanding he now declares the monies received, and the expences, great as they were, of so grand a band of performers, and erecting the *pro tempore* galleries, were at least equal, if not in favour of the Charity; can it be supposed, that, if it really was so, he would have suffered Mr. Pinto to have returned without one shilling of his gratuity; that he would have endeavoured to prevail upon Messieurs Vincents, Miller, and others, to have done the same: myself with little more than half the sum I ought to have received, and great part of that in base, and unpassable, coin? surely

surely no. But the meanest of all mean things, was that of extorting half a guinea from each of those performers whose gratuity had before been set as low as possible; and this, as he pretended, for the sake of the Charity. Query, Whether they are enrolled as benefactors, as in justice they ought to have been? If so, it will appear that my name in particular, ought to stand high in that honourable list; since I not only contributed, chearfully, my mite with the rest, but really and truly for the sake of the Charity, totally relinquished my perquisite for the use of my books, from the first to the last of the performances.

In order to ascertain what advantage accrued to the charity from this donation, it will be necessary first to acquaint the reader, that I usually charge two guineas for the use of each Oratorio, viz. for the score and parts, for the voices and instruments, which is extremely moderate. That sum therefore shall be set down, without mentioning any for my *time* and *trouble* in collating, correcting, and repairing the parts for so numerous a band, to which might be added, *extra* writing, to complete the same, and the accompt will stand as follows.

N. B. The various pieces of Church-Music are rated altogether as one Oratorio.

At the first Meeting at Church-Langton, September the 26th, 1759.

	£.	s.	d.
For the use of Church-music —	2	2	0
Messiah — — —	2	2	0

At the second Meeting at Ditto, July the 30th, 1760.

For the use of Church-music —	2	2	0
Messiah — — —	2	2	0

At the third Meeting at Ditto, July the 8th, 1761.

For the use of Judas Macchabæus	2	2	0
Messiah — — —	2	2	0
Esther — — —	2	2	0

At the fourth Meeting, which was at Leicester, in 1762.

For the use of Judas Macchabæus	2	2	0
Messiah — — —	2	2	0
Samson — — —	2	2	0
Alexander's Feast,	2	2	0
Ode to the Memory of Mr. Handel	}	1	1 0

£ 24 3 0

At

*At the fifth Meeting, which was at Nottingham,
May the 31st, 1763.*

	£.	s.	d.
For the use of Messiah — — —	2	2	0
Judas Macchabæus	2	2	0
Samson — — —	2	2	0
Alexander's Feast,	2	2	0
Ode to the Memory of Mr. Handel }	1	1	0
<hr/>			
Brought over	24	3	0
<hr/>			
Total	£ 33	12	0

To the above accompt ought to be added the several *sums* which were *saved* by my preparing a Boy, at his request, to sing the first Woman's part, in all the Oratorios for the three last Meetings; viz. at the first of these fourteen guineas; and at each of the others twelve.

	£.	s.	d.
<i>i. e.</i> At the Meeting in 1761,	14	14	0
in 1762,	12	12	0
in 1763,	12	12	0
<hr/>			
	£ 38	18	0

Now let us put these *sums* together, that it may be seen how much less the profits would have been, than the *sums* now (for the first time)

time) ascertained. [For the first time, I say ; be cause it is well known, that when the Trustee demanded a sight of his account, he refused to produce it : and this was the prime cause of their coolness, and declining to act. He was then asked, how it was possible they could discharge their trust, unless all accounts whatsoever were laid before them for inspection ? without which, they were but mere nominal Trustees, and had not the power of acting.]

	£.	s.	d.
For the use of Books, — — —	33	12	0
Saved in the Expence of a Woman }	38	18	0
finger, — — — — — }			
	<hr/>		
	£	72	10 0
	<hr/>		

N. B. This calculation is made with the supposition of Miss Thomas's making no higher a demand for going one year to Leicester, and the next to Nottingham (at each of which places she would have had more than double the number of Oratorios to have shared in) than for her attendance at Church-Langton ; which cannot reasonably be imagined : because at Langton, she was accommodated, with bed and board, at the parsonage-house ; whereas at either of the other places, she must have been at the expence of both at an inn, or in private lodgings. Suppose then we allow her only five guineas extraordinary at each place, this will make an addition of ten to the above Sum,

sum, which makes my donation amount to 83 *l. 0 s. 0 d.*

Perhaps it may be urged, that Mr. Hanbury was not obliged to engage Miss Thomas, had not the Boy been made capable of performing her part ; he might have found out another ; but where ? There was not a woman at that time in the kingdom so equal to the part, who would have undertaken it, for double her gratuity.

To return. At the first meeting, he says, little or nothing was gained. At the second, "just money enough to pay the way." At the third, *fifteen pounds* and *some shillings* gained. At the fourth, he says, "all went off exceedingly well, and the event proved the company was great." And afterwards, that notwithstanding some disadvantages which he enumerates, "the gains amounted to upwards of an hundred pounds." [Yet even then he paid the performers most grudgingly.]

At the fifth, he found himself *five pounds* and *a few shillings* out of pocket. These odd shillings, and those gained at the third meeting, may be struck off, supposing them to be equal ; upon the whole, it will then appear (by this account of his) that at the two first meetings, the receipts and disbursements counter-balanced each other ; at the third, he was a gainer fifteen pounds ; at the fourth an hundred and upwards, but as he hath not specified how much, he must be content, if I set down the

the round hundred only ; at the fifth and last, five pounds out of pocket.

	£.	s.	d.
At the third Meeting, gainer, —	15	0	0
At the fourth, gainer, — — —	100	0	0
	<hr/>		
	115	0	0
At the fifth, loser, — — — —	5	0	0
	<hr/>		

which subtract from the 115^{l.} }
 and there will remain in favour } 110 0 0
 of the Charity, — — — — }

But had I not given up my perquisite for the use of my Books, and saved him so much in the expence of a woman singer, he would then have been, instead of an hundred and ten, only twenty-seven pounds, a gainer ; which may be seen by subtracting the eighty-three from the hundred and ten.

£.	s.	d.
110	0	0
83	0	0
<hr/>		
£ 27	0	0
<hr/>		

Let us now proceed a little further, and take a view of those black pages, wherein he has vented his malice, by flinging his dirt so plentifully at the person, to whom (it is presumed) the reader is sufficiently convinced, a different kind of treatment would have been more consistent with a benevolent mind, the sacred

sacred function of the author, and even common decency.

Here we shall find him deeply intrenched in falsehood ; but it is not in the least despaired of, that by the opposition of a little well attested truth, his great Guns (for Guns they are) will soon be silenced.

Page 149, it is very roundly asserted, that, " the * time was fixed by Doctor Hayes for " his own convenience ;" this I positively deny: for when I saw Mr. Hanbury at the Somerset coffee-house in London, whither he came to consult with me concerning that meeting, (not finding me at Oxford) it was agreed that the time should not be fixed, 'till he and I had exchanged letters upon that subject ; lest it should happen to interfere with some other engagement of mine. Contrary to this agreement, it was arbitrarily fixed, and public notice given thereof, in the London and other papers, some time before I knew any thing of the matter : for as I never frequent coffee-houses in Oxford, it was by mere accident I heard of it, even when it did come to my knowledge. This occasioned my writing to him as mentioned in the same paragraph with the above assertion, not only desiring it might be altered, but remonstrating that he had broken his agreement, in fixing it so unfairly without my knowledge ; at the same time telling him, that it would be

* Of the Nottingham Meeting.

impossible

impossible for me to attend the first morning performance, which he had advertised to be on Tuesday, May the 31st, at eleven in the forenoon, being obliged to be at St. Mary's, on Sunday the 29th, on account of the solemnity of the day; and that, after my duty was over there, I should not be able to reach Nottingham time enough.

If I did not mention, I ought to have mentioned, that several of the principal singers were under the same engagement.*

His answer only proved, what I had frequently experienced before, that he was very obstinate, and not to be dissuaded from any purpose, however absurd or unreasonable. He says, "it was too late to alter the time, as that
" could be done only by *advertisement*; † and
" before he could dispatch *those* to the re-
" spective printing-offices, the time would be
" elapsed; that he repeated this letter, tel-
" ling me again and again, there was no pos-
" sibility of altering the time; and desiring me
" to get somebody to play the organ, which
" must be all the *engagements* that could lie on
" my hands the 29th of May: but that if any

* It is customary on all *state* holidays, to have *cathedral service* performed at St. MARY'S (the University Church;) on which occasions, a select number of the principal singers are collected from the different choirs to perform the same. The Organist also (which I have the honour to be) is more particularly obliged to attend. This being the anniversary of King CHARLES'S Restoration, the usual Regard was paid to it; and it was near one o'clock before the solemnity ended.

† Vide Hist. pag. 150.

" business

" business must detain me then, I would set off
 " as soon as I was at liberty, and accelerate
 " my speed, by taking fresh horses as often as
 " there should be occasion." Part of which is
 true, and part far otherwise. Were not ten
 days time enough to admit of sending an ad-
 vertisement to any part of the Kingdom? espe-
 cially as it required only a small difference to be
 made, in the form already composed, specifying
 the first performance to be in the evening of
 the 31st of May, instead of the morning, and
 the others to follow in course; with a *N. B.* gi-
 ving the reason for the alteration. This was
 all I could expect in the present dilemma.
 One of the letters which I received from him
 relating to the alteration proposed, and now
 lies before me, was dated May the 21st, the
 London post-mark the 23d. It must therefore
 be allowed, that the same post would have
 conveyed his directions to the London printers,
 and that the Journalists of Leicester, North-
 ampton, and Nottingham, might have been
 acquainted therewith in much less time; the
 farthest of them being less than forty miles dis-
 tant from Church Langton, and the post road
 running by the skirts of the parish. It cannot
 be doubted, had he done this, but there would
 have been time sufficient, for its circulating to
 all parts of the island.

Neither in the letter above-mentioned, or
 in a subsequent one which I received from him,
 does he in the least endeavour at exculpating
 D himself

himself from arbitrarily fixing the time, *i. e.* the *week*, but urges, and harps much upon it, that the *days* of the week were agreed upon at our interview in London, for the sake of my having time enough, after the performances were over, to return to Oxford by the Sunday following; as it would be inconvenient for me, and my companions, to be out more than one. This is very true, but the same days of the *week following* would have equally answered the same end.

Now, if the *days of the week*, and *no certain week*, was agreed upon between us, his assertion must be fallacious; and the force of it, consequently, must vanish in smoke. And yet, this is the main foundation, whereon he builds all his pretences for complaint: This, therefore, taken away, the superstructure must inevitably fall to the ground. But what shall be said for his giving the above reason, why the *days of the week* were fixed upon, in his *letter*, and no notice being taken of it in his *book*? Surely this is prevarication with a witness; calculated to mislead his readers, and to blacken me.

That he repeated his letter, telling me again and again, there was no possibility of altering the time, is granted; though the contrary is undeniably proved. But, that he desired me to get somebody to play the organ, and, that in case of my being detained by any absolute business, to accelerate my speed by taking fresh
horses,

horses, as often as there should be occasion, is a piece of the ingenious author's own invention, to serve the present purpose ; as will appear by the following extract from the only letter of his, that has the least tendency towards this request.

DEAR DOCTOR,

*" I Rather wondered at your last, as the
 " Days were fixed Tuesday, &c. purely on
 " your account, for you told me in London
 " (unless I am strangely mistaken) that they
 " must be those days, or you could not reach
 " home by Sunday, and that you could not be
 " absent for more than one. — However,
 " to make short, they are advertised, tickets
 " printed, letters wrote, &c. for that time,
 " and it cannot be reversed, it being now
 " very near at hand :* — so that I would
 " advise you to set out sooner, though indeed
 " you might be there early enough on Tuesday
 " morning, but that you will by no means
 " think proper." —*

N. B. The remainder of the letter consisteth of his recommendation of an inn, and

* It is no uncommon thing, when tickets have been made out, dispersed, and sold, for a benefit on a certain day, to have the day altered, and by advertisement notice given thereof, signifying that the tickets given out for the former, would be admitted on the latter.

no-ways concerneth the present altercation. It is dated as before mentioned, May 21.

By the above extract, which is transcribed *verbatim*, it is evident no mention is made of the Organ, or my taking fresh horses to accelerate my speed. He rather seems to be of opinion that I might be there time enough without that expedient, and that it depended upon my will only; but I trust it will appear far otherwise. But suppose he had mentioned my taking fresh horses, I could not have complied with it, unless he had been more generously disposed than usual, and offered to pay the extraordinary expence of so doing: for I could not afford it. But he does not so much as pretend that he ever made me any such offer. Mr. Hanbury knew that I hired a chaise by the day; and that the same pair of horses were to serve for the whole journey. Knowing *this*, he could not think such an offer would be either unreasonable, or unacceptable. If he had not known *this*, it was absurd to mention my taking fresh horses: because in travelling post, or by stages, I must, of course, have had fresh-ones for every stage; and undoubtedly there would have been time enough, and to spare, to have performed the journey after that manner, so far as *my personal appearance* was necessary; but what were *the horsemen* to do? The pittance they were allowed, would by no means admit of this additional expence; the journey *out* and *home* was not less than

than 200 miles, the time it took up seven days at least, during which they stood to all charges whatsoever. Moreover, my appearing without them, would have been to no purpose; for if great things may be named with small, a General without his Troops, would make but an insignificant figure in the field of battle. But he suppresses or avoids mentioning those Gentlemen as much as possible; all his malevolence being levelled at me.

He proceeds thus. " Relying on his punctuality, therefore, I told him we would open the doors as advertised, and wait until he came: and for my satisfaction, I ordered a tenant of mine, before I set out for Nottingham, to meet him at Harborough, and to ride off with all speed to let us know whether we might be sure of him; for the time was too short to receive the Doctor's answer by letter to the above particulars. He met him there at the time expected, and came to Nottingham that night, with this account: That Dr. Hayes and the voices with him, dined at Harborough by *two of the clock*; that the Doctor told him, he did not intend going further than Leicester that evening; but that he would be sure of being at Nottingham time enough the next day."

The man, according to Mr. Hanbury's order, did meet us at Harborough; at least, came there soon after we arrived, and brought me a letter

letter from Mrs. Hanbury, couched in very pressing terms, desiring me to proceed to Nottingham as speedily as possible. To which I returned for answer, in writing, that it would be impossible to get thither time enough for the morning entertainment; and that, in my opinion, Mr. Hanbury had better put off that performance, and, as I had recommended to him in my last letter, in order to prevent disappointment, to get hand-bills printed and dispersed about the town. My verbal answer to the man was to the same effect; with this addition, that we could not be able to reach Nottingham before noon at soonest; but that he might depend upon our being there time enough the next day *for the evening performance*. The last four, very material, words, are not to be found in the foregoing passage, cited from Mr. Hanbury's book; for what purpose they are omitted, let the reader judge.

Can it be supposed that my written answer was not delivered according to it's direction? If it was, can it be imagined that Mrs. Hanbury would keep it, and not communicate the contents or purport thereof to her husband, when her keeping it until he returned, could avail nothing? If it was not, we may reasonably conclude it was carried directly to him; at least, that he was informed of it by the messenger; though he had the hardiness, when it was mentioned to him, to deny the having seen or heard any thing of it.

He

He says the man informed him that we dined at Harborough by two of the clock; *that* he could not do, if he acted honestly: for it was after that time when he made his first appearance; and I doubt, whether or not our dinner was then ordered: however, after talking some time with him, I wrote my answer to Mrs. Hanbury's letter, and delivered my message to him, before it was brought in. From the above circumstances, it must be full three of the clock by the time we sat down to eat; consequently, it was at least ~~four~~ by the time we had dined, and perhaps something later before we could set out for Leicester. The reasons for our proceeding no further that evening, will be given in the subsequent part of this narrative.

When we got to Nottingham the next day, which was between one and two of the clock (nearest the latter) we soon found, that, notwithstanding the advice which had been given, no one precaution had been taken to prevent disappointment; but that, on the contrary, this strange, absurd man, had suffered the company to come together by *eleven* of the clock, assuring them I should be there shortly.

There they waited full of fruitless expectation (as I was informed) at least two hours; he going in, every now and then, telling them I was coming, I was coming. At length, finding *that* to be false, they dispersed full of indignation, at the *supposed* author of their disappointment;

disappointment ; the effect of which was, by me, and my companions, experienced, as we passed through the town to our inn : for some hissed, and others cried for shame ! for shame !

Soon after our arrival at the inn, the great man, accompanied by a little one, came to us, and accosted me, not in that cool and gentle manner he describes, but with a loud and angry tone of voice, and rustic air, calling me to account for not coming to the morning performance, and demanding the reason for so great a piece of neglect. I told him, not as he asserts, my horses tired, but, *that he had no reason to expect me* ; that my letters, and the message which I sent from Harborough by the man, were uniform, in telling him it would be impossible for me to be at Nottingham before noon at the soonest ; at the same time reminding him of the precaution which I had recommended to be taken. But waving all notice of that, he told me several persons had arrived there from Leicester by eight o'clock ; and that I had lost him the taking of an *hundred pounds* ; whereas the house will scarcely hold company enough to make it amount to *fifty* : for it is the smallest Theatre I ever saw. Besides, I was credibly informed, that the whole company did not consist of more than *seventy* persons ; which (the tickets being *five shillings* each) amounted to seventeen pounds ten shillings only : so that there were wanting,
no

no less than *three hundred and thirty* persons, to make it amount to an hundred pounds.

That persons might arrive from Leicester by the time he mentioned, is very possible, though they must have taken little rest over night; but surely there is a vast difference between two sets of fresh horses, and one only which had travelled two days before with a considerable burthen.

I am sorry to say the other gentleman took upon himself more authority than was becoming: for he bullied, or rather *scolded* (his voice and manner being better adapted to the latter than the former) abundantly; but knowing the matter in debate to be no concern of his, the airs he gave himself, were treated with the contempt they deserved; and from that time, he behaved with the utmost complaisance.

Every one who is acquainted with the road between Leicester and Nottingham, knows, that great part thereof is extremely sandy. The weather at that time was very hot and dry; so that the particles of sand were rendered light, and in a condition to rise most plentifully; which being of a red colour, the effect of it was very visible on our cloaths and faces: for they were nearly like those of the noted brickdust-man in London. Of this scene Mr. Hanbury, and his little friend, were witnesses. From this circumstance, of being choaked and covered with dust and sand, it is evident, that

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had we been there by eleven, it would have availed but little ; as it would have taken up a considerable time after that, to have shifted ourselves from head to foot, and to have got some necessary refreshment : without which, the fingers, in particular, whose throats were choaked with sand, and parched with thirst, would not have been capable of performing at all. Besides, the horsemen were not a little fatigued ; having laboured much to get their steeds on, at any rate. And this is not to be wondered at ; since *that* on which Mr. Mathews rode, was severely galled on the back, before we got to Harborough ; owing to his bulk, and the heat of the weather. New stuffing the saddle, during our stay there, was tried, in order to ease the part, but without effect ; and it was with difficulty he carried him to Leicester that evening. The next day, another method was taken by Mr. Mathews to ease his horse, viz. by exchanging horses with one of the company, who was but a light weight ; the consequence of which was, that the other's horse was made in the same condition with his own : so that instead of *one*, we had then *two galled horses* in company. Surely these were retarding circumstances, had we engaged to be at the morning performance ; which we certainly had not, and therefore, out of compassion to the poor animals above mentioned, avoided pressing them beyond what was

was consistent with reason and humanity. * The reader from hence will see how little occasion there was for my pleading in excuse, as Mr. Hanbury asserts I did, the chaise horses being tired : for the truth is, that I wanted no excuse ; and if I had, this would have been a causeless one ; and therefore not justifiable.

It would be beside my purpose to animadvert either upon the account he gives of the very extraordinary manner in which his house filled ; the compliment he makes the ladies on that occasion ; or the manner in which he dismissed that *crouded assembly* : I shall therefore take other matters into consideration.

Mr. Hanbury's stay at our inn, the first time he came, was but short. He was then told, that we should be ready for an evening performance, at what hour he pleased : however, not satisfied with that, he came a second time, to ask if he might give notice of the Messiah to be performed in the evening ? and being answered in the affirmative, he tells us, " a trumpet was sent round the town, with *band bills* to acquaint the public the Doctor was come, and that we should begin precisely at five o'clock." Had he, the day before, or even in the morning, given the same kind of notice, that the performance

* Surely Mr. Hanbury cannot disapprove of our acting upon this principle, as he himself speaks so very feelingly of the cruel treatment which several poor Dogs underwent at Church-Langton, and in the Caudle thereof.

which was intended to be at eleven in the forenoon, would be postponed until the evening (at what hour he pleased) several of the performers being not yet arrived; the disappointment had been prevented, and all cause of complaint avoided. And surely any man except himself, would for his own sake have done this; for although, by the neglect of it, and obstinately persisting, contrary to the remonstrances I had made, and the advice I had given, some of the resentment fell upon me; yet, he must needs think, that when the truth was known, a greater portion of it would fall upon himself. Thus it happened: for no sooner was it reported that I was come, and my reasons for not being there in the morning spread abroad, but the blame was transferred from me the *supposed*, to him, who was the *real* author of their disappointment. It is true, some gentlemen were determined to hear them from my own lips; and accordingly in the evening, when the instruments were all tuned, the curtain drawn up, and the Cverture begun, they called upon me for an apology. Sudden and unexpected as this was, I can truly say, it did not in the least disconcert me; being conscious of having done nothing wrong, or unjustifiable. I told them I would, in as few words as possible, acquaint them with the whole of the affair. First, that Mr. Hanbury had no reason to expect me to the morning performance, as I had never agreed to attend it,

it, and as I had all along protested against it ; that I had in several letters told him, it would not be in my power ; being obliged to stay in Oxford on the twenty-ninth, 'till after noon, upon necessary business : Moreover that I had recommended to him, both by letter, and the message which I sent him from Harborough the day before, to get *hand-bills* printed and dispersed, to prevent a disappointment. No sooner were these words uttered, than we heard from all quarters of the Theatre, “ I told you so ! I told you so ! ”

Upon this Mr. Hanbury mounted the stage from the pit, and told them that I might easily have been there in the morning, if I had taken fresh horses : for I had dined at Harborough the day before at *two o'clock* (two hours earlier than it really was) from whence he received the message above mentioned, which he hath mutilated and perverted to his own purpose ; and which he then repeated after that manner. In answer to which, my son said, “ that is false I do affirm.” The audience then cried, not as he asserts, “ knock that fellow down,” but, *down, down*, to himself ; the interposition of whose body intercepted their view to the performers ; and to us, go on, go on. As to hissing, or any other expression of resentment, in truth there was none ; at least none that I heard, and consequently if there was, its effect was intirely lost, for that reason. From that time, things went smoothly on, nor was there
the

the least interruption from the beginning to the ending ; on the contrary most things were greatly applauded.

In the course of the several Oratorios, it fell to my lot to sing some of the airs ; surely, if the audience had intended to express their resentment to me, then was the time for it to have burst forth, when it would have had the most mortifying effect ; as no other performer could have been meant, or hurt by it. But I appeal even to Mr. Hanbury's own decision (if a grain of honour or veracity remains in his heart) whether or not, the least insult was offered on such occasion ; and whether, on the contrary, they not only winked at my imperfections, but shewed much approbation of my humble endeavours to entertain them.

As this was really and truly the case, what foundation could there be for the flimsy story he hath imposed upon the public, viz. that
 “ The Doctor's excuse was soon noised through
 “ the town, and was looked upon to be so base,
 “ that the audience determined to give him no
 “ quarter, as soon as he came into the Theatre.
 “ The ladies seemed to be most exasperated ; but
 “ many of the leading ones saying it might spoil
 “ the whole performance, and that resentment
 “ had better be deferred until it was ended, it
 “ was agreed to postpone resentment until that
 “ time, and then *kiss, shout, and mob him* as he
 “ deserved.”

I would ask Mr. Hanbury which of the
 ladies

ladies made use of these delicate expressions? Or, which of them communicated her sentiments to him? Not one I sincerely believe; but, as they are so much of a piece with the decency and veracity with which he hath treated me throughout the many pages he hath bestowed upon me, I am apt to conclude they are the overflowings of his own imagination, and such as he rather wished to have been poured forth by others.

From the same source sprang the two informations inserted at the bottom of p. 160, and p. 161. The first, "that I set out from Oxford " the 29th of May, *early in the morning*, and " went to Northampton that night, and so proceeded to Harborough by dinner, and Leicester in the evening." The other, "that I " was in bed at the Three Crowns in Leicester " at eight o'clock in the morning." Whereas the fact is, that I did not set out from Oxford until two o'clock in the afternoon on the 29th, and reached no further than Towcester that evening: which was thought to be a very good stage for one pair of horses (on a cross-country road, many parts of which were extremely rough) in so short a time; it being no less than thirty-four miles. The journey from thence to Leicester was near forty-two miles; which is as far as any chaise-master would willingly suffer one pair of horses to travel in a day; especially loaded as mine was, having myself and two boys within, together with a seat full

full of books, and other things; and a large trunk on the outside.

As to my being in bed at Leicester, I leave it to the reader, and those who know the road from thence to Nottingham, to determine, whether (since an hour, at the most moderate allowance, must be taken up by breakfasting, and getting ready) from nine in the morning to three quarters after one in the afternoon, was a sufficient time, to perform the remainder of the journey in. It measures, at least, twenty-five miles; which is somewhat more than five miles an hour (heavy as we found the road to be) proceeding without let or hindrance. But one of the horses having cast a shoe, we were obliged to lie by at Loughborough, to have a new-one; and several others fastened: this detained us one hour at least, which deducted from four and three quarters, makes it considerably better than six miles an hour; judge therefore, of the probability of my being in bed at eight o'clock. The fact is, that we set out full as early as that hour.

The above might serve as a sufficient refutation of the following passage p. 156. " By
 " this time, (*i. e.* when he had dismissed
 " his audience) the messengers were returned,
 " who said, they met the Doctor coming
 " down the hill beyond Bunny, (seven miles
 " from Nottingham) but so slow that he
 " hardly moved; that they had used all their
 " endeavours to hasten him but in vain; that
 " they

“ durst not come back and leave him coming so slowly, as they thought they might probably prevail on him to mend his pace.” Allowing his messenger to be in the right, just upon that spot, it was no wonder that the chaise did move slowly : for I well remember, that several men were then employed in repairing the road, and that a considerable quantity of loose stones had been thrown upon it, which retarded the motion of the wheels, and made the horses drag their burthen heavily. However, after all, this might be a fortunate circumstance to me, as the descent is pretty steep, and as one of our horses was sometimes a little restive ; to which might be added, that as our driver was a remarkably spirited one, it is possible a bad accident might thereby be prevented. But he goes on thus, “ they said (meaning the messengers, one only of whom I saw) he seemed to be inwardly pleased ; and “ one accidentally riding by, and saying, you “ are too late, for they have begun an hour “ ago ; he laughed heartily.” Those who heard him say so, I verily believe did laugh ; for what could he have said more laughable ? but it was not in my power, whilst the chaise was in motion, to distinguish what the man said ; neither was his speech directed to me in particular ; it was intended for the whole party : however observing that he had addressed himself to the company, I desired one of the horsemen to inform me, what it was he said ;

and when I heard it, to confess honestly and ingenuously, I laughed with the rest; nay, I laughed heartily; and I must have been totally deprived of my risible faculties, not to have done so: for, could any thing be more ridiculous, than the idea of a man's absurdly bringing on the performance of an Oratorio in public, before *one half of the singers* were arrived? nay, *the leading violin* also? for he was one of the company; and further, without a single book to perform from; and then to be told that they had begun an hour before that time, surely would have forced a Stoic, in spite of all his philosophy, to have joined in the chorus.

But he chiefly founded his argument to prove my wilful neglect of being at Nottingham in the morning, and the possibility of performing the journey by that time, on my having dined at Harborough the day before, and lying at Leicester.

This he has printed in capitals, lest it should not be sufficiently taken notice of; but it is equally remarkable, that he even falsifies his own words: for in p. 150 of his book, he particularly specifies the time of day, viz. "*by two o'clock*;" and he did the same, in his speech upon the stage; why, then, is that material circumstance omitted in this *capital instance*? for no other reason, but that being conscious it was an untruth, he avoids inserting the most striking part thereof, lest one of the true causes of my son's reply, should be discovered

vered by his readers : for, he could not say our dining at Harborough, and lying at Leicester was false ; but that we dined by two o'clock, and that I sent him word I would be at Nottingham time enough for the morning performance, was absolutely so.

After having given a description of what happened at our first setting off in the Theatre, which he hath painted in very false colours, as hath already been shewn, he condescends to allow that the Messiah went on with great justice, though, says he, “ the confusion had “ *so* *bash*ed several of the performers, that the “ whole did not go off in that spirited manner “ as usual.” I will venture to affirm, it went as well as it was possible, with such an handful of vocal performers. No spirit was wanting, but strength there certainly was. Why we had not more of the latter, will evidently appear from a perusal of the following letter, faithfully transcribed from the original, which I received from him in due time, according to the date thereof. It will also appear in how disingenuous a manner he acted with respect to his friends at Nottingham ; and that he wanted me to prostitute my character and reputation so far, as to be an accomplice in cheating and deceiving them.

To Doctor Hayes, at Oxford.

DEAR DOCTOR,

“ *I* Have been again at Nottingham, and
 “ every thing is settled against the time.
 “ They want me to write to you for the Parts
 “ for those Boys at Lincoln to Practice ; but I
 “ find they chiefly want to get themselves in rea-
 “ diness to do without us another Year : I beg
 “ therefore you would keep them as much in Ig-
 “ norance as Possible, and am sorry you Wrote
 “ Hargrave* that open and free Letter. I told
 “ them I would write, but I was sure you
 “ would not lend them, and indeed what service
 “ could it be to Boys to Have all their Parts to
 “ get at this time ? You must therefore give out
 “ when you come, that your Boys will do very
 “ well, as Clarke, &c. may help them in their
 “ Parts ; this will satisfy them, for they know
 “ no better : and without this, they will spread
 “ it abroad that our Band is imperfect, which
 “ will do us much Hurt.—upon closely Exa-
 “ mining the Theatre I find it very small, I
 “ think it cannot possibly hold more than 350

* A very worthy, and ingenious man of Nottingham ; Mr. Hanbury's friend, and ever since our meeting at that place, a correspondent of mine. This Gentleman is the Editor of Clari's Madrigals : a work, well worthy of the perusal of the curious. Six of them are already published, and the remainder will be, as soon as possible, by subscription.

“ People,

“ People, and the Assembly room I can have
 “ only two nights Tuesday and Thursday, for
 “ they say that Wednesday night is their assembly.
 “ — we should therefore have something at
 “ the Theatre that night to overpower that,
 “ which may be easily done, as they will have
 “ had Dancing the night before, unless we either
 “ remain idle, or you would choose to take a
 “ Dance with them.—suppose your Ode, but
 “ that will be too short unless something added.
 “ — or *Acis and Galatea*, it will make a
 “ greater Bustle—However I leave it to you
 “ to have something in readiness, if wanted.
 “ —We must look sharp to make our Money
 “ again, and I am pretty confident that the
 “ Theatre thrice filled will but hardly do it,
 “ and it is from this Additional advantage of
 “ the Evening Entertainments that we are pro-
 “ tected against bad accidents, and have the
 “ hope of getting something in Pocket.—I
 “ suppose you received my Letter from London,
 “ in which I informed you that *Wals* was to
 “ come instead of *Bond* from *Worcester*.—As
 “ our Rooms are so very small I make no doubt
 “ but our Band will be strong enough to do us
 “ Honour.—I beg my best respects to the Mu-
 “ sical souls that are to attend at Nottingham
 “ and I am with all respect

“ Your most Humble servant

Church Langton,
 May 16, 1763.

“ WM. HANBURY.”

To this, I returned an immediate answer ; in which I not only vindicated my conduct with respect to the open, and unreserved manner of my answering Mr. Hargrave's Letter, but also, protested against the baseness of prostituting my reputation, in so dirty an undertaking, as that of persuading others to believe, what I neither believed, or approved myself. In short, I absolutely refused to be concerned in so paltry a piece of meanness, with respect to my own character, and so gross and scandalous an imposition upon the public. However, we had no vocal assistance from Lincoln.

The purport of Mr. Hargrave's Letter was to acquaint me, that Mr. Hanbury had been with him, that matters, relating to the intended performances, were agreed on, and after mentioning the place in which they were to be exhibited, desiring to be informed what number of performers it would be necessary to provide, and in what manner they were to be disposed upon the stage. In answer to a request of such a nature, and of so much consequence, not to be open and explicit, would have been unpardonable; I therefore gave him my opinion freely as to the former, and the best directions I was capable of, at such a distance, as to the latter. But this, it seems was an impolitic step; I should have kept him in ignorance: for this cunning old man, only wanted to learn how he, and his friends, might be able to do without us another year. However, let us do
him

him justice, and acknowledge, that by his kindness in directing the workmen (according to the plan which I had communicated to him) and his inspecting them occasionally, the Orchestre was very properly executed in all respects : when probably, without the above assistance, the disposition would have been confused and irregular ; such as would neither have been commodious to the performers, nor advantageous to the audience, either for seeing or hearing.

I am obliged to Mr. Hanbury, for finding so good an excuse, for the ladies not putting their direful threats in execution ; though it seems, by his account, they were meditating upon it, during the last evening's performance, at the assembly-room ; “ but (says he) as *we* “ always end with a grand chorus, and this “ being performed, many not knowing it was “ the last, and other fresh people knowing “ nothing of the intention, clapped the chorus as usual ; and though the hissing was “ begun, yet by the echo of the unknowing- “ ones the Doctor sneaked away, and got “ clear off.”

Surely Mr. Hanbury's memory failed him a little, when he composed the above paragraph : for he calls the last, a *grand chorus* ! and says it was clapped as usual ; *i. e.* as other grand chorusses generally are ; nay that the clapping was so far superior to the hissing, which, it seems was begun, that——I ought to thank him

him for his involuntary compliment : the chorus being my own composition (a circumstance which he certainly had forgotten) however I am forbidden, by the conclusion of the sentence : for this echoing applause, howsoever I might flatter myself to the contrary, came from the unknowing-ones ; and served only to give me an opportunity to sneak off : like the man who fired his house, and ran away by the light of it. Could any thing have been more ingeniously contrived ? Mr. Bayes would have rejoiced in so masterly a stroke—and I doubt not, but our historian did the same.

But after all, there is very little truth in what he asserts so roundly.

That the last chorus, indeed, was applauded in a manner that did great honour to the author of it, and was by him most gratefully acknowledged, is certain : nay it was so universally applauded, that had the attempt been made which he mentions, better ears than Mr. Hanbury's could not possibly have distinguished it ; not that I believe any such attempt was made. Neither can I imagine, that any part of so polite an audience (for such it really was, and more numerous than any of the former) could be disposed to make themselves parties in his quarrel or resentment, to such a degree, as to do his dirty work : when it had sufficiently appeared the first evening, that he only had been to blame.

Mr.

Mr. Bayes valued himself upon penning a whisper; and so may Mr. Hanbury for any thing I know to the contrary: since the hissing he talks of, must certainly have been of that species.

But although I have owned my obligation to him for bringing me off so snugly, without suffering me to be first knocked down and killed, and then ordered (as Mr. Bayes's dead men were) to rise up and walk off; yet there should have been some *truth*, at least some *probability* to have supported the fiction. As to the former, it wanteth proof and confirmation, to make it go down glibly: and as to the latter, it is as unlike, as Mrs. Hanbury's picture; which, by his own account, is far short of the original, both in feature and complexion: * for it is well known, we authors are fond of basking in the sun-shine of applause; which, in this fickle climate is not every day to be ob-

* " This summer (1763) says Mr. Hanbury, the celebrated painter Mr. Penny came to Langton, in order to take the portraits of my wife and myself for the *picture-gallery*. They are full lengths, and he has succeeded in mine, † which most people say is very like, if the observer looks to it from the right in front; but if viewed from the left, or rather behind the picture, it shews a seemingly different person. He several times attempted Mrs. Hanbury's picture, and as often failed; and has paid her the compliment, that she is out of the art. Several other painters have since attempted a likeness, but in vain; so that if ever we have a picture of Mrs. Hanbury, it must be when age has brought her under the power of pencil and paint."

† My age at this time is thirty-eight, and Mrs. Hanbury's twenty-eight. Vide Hist. p. 185, &c. printed in 1767.

tained. Is it likely, therefore, that I should, with such a blaze of it around me, prefer squabbling with him, in a gloomy little cavern, to this splendid heart-cheering scene? no; I rather chose to enjoy it. The fact is, that I continued in the concert-room full three quarters of an hour after the performance was ended, conversing with several gentlemen; particularly Doctor Crynes, who was formerly a member of that society, to which I have had the honour to be Organist, upwards of three and thirty years. In short I did not quit the room, until Mr. Hanbury had finished his wrangling with the greatest part of the band. He expressly tells his readers, that I was the last man he paid. But let us take his whole account of this last scene together.

“ This being over [meaning the performance, and my wonderful escape] my whole evening (says he) was taken up in paying the performers; for though this might soon have been done, yet we were hindered and perplexed by all, where a punctual bargain was not made; who could never be satisfied in their demands. This trouble I had every meeting in some measure experienced, and I contrived as well as I could to stop it for the future; but now it seemed to be multiplied upon us to a degree indeed. The lowest of the performers or fillers up, were now of such importance, as to make a demand of double, and some of them triple, their
“ accustomed

“ accustomed pay. As I could in justice refuse
 “ satisfying such demands, I did, but for qui-
 “ etness I gave them much more than usual ;
 “ and this extortion amongst them all amounted
 “ to a considerable sum. *Hayes was the last*
 “ *man I paid* ; and when I came to him every
 “ body expected I should give him a hearty
 “ lecture. I thought him too inconsiderable
 “ however ; and being fatigued with disputing
 “ with so many of the other performers, I
 “ dismissed him with only telling him, he had
 “ disqualified himself for any future service
 “ of mine.”

Who those were, with whom he had not
 made a punctual bargain, I know not ; neither
 do I know, who they were, who were so insa-
 tiable in their demands ; especially those who
 demanded double and triple their accustomed
 pay. I am very certain, that none did so who
 went from Oxford. The utmost they demanded
 was only one fourth more than they received,
 or, rather ought to have received, according to
 agreement, at Church-Langton the very first
 meeting. And surely this was highly reason-
 able ; since the journey was two-fifths greater,
 and consequently, the time and expence greater
 in proportion, and the number of performances
 were increased to more than double : for then,
 we had only Church-music one day, and one
 Oratorio on the other ; whereas, at Nottingham,
 we had no less than *four Oratorios*, and a Mis-
 cellaneous Concert beside. Had not this been

taken into consideration, he might have expected us, sometime or other, to have followed him, upon the original terms, to York or Durham: for, by a parity of reasoning, one would be equally just with the other. However, what we were to have was stipulated for beforehand; notwithstanding which, he was so unreasonable, I might say unjust, as to insist, in the most arbitrary manner imaginable, upon one of the principal finger's taking only half his proper allowance; and at the same time boasting that he paid every-one with honour, calling upon me to observe it.

To confess a truth, this made me angry; and in reply I said, No; scarcely with common honesty.

As a specimen of his judgement, as well as justice, I must beg leave to observe, that although he thought fit to curtail the above gentleman of half; he was not averse to allowing another, who sung only in chorus, his full pay: The only reason that can possibly be assigned for this strange instance of caprice, is, that one happens to be seven or eight inches taller than the other: for they are nearly of equal age, and of equal standing, as Academics, in the University. This was urged, but without effect.

At the close of our dispute on this account (the only one I had with him in the pay-office) I took an opportunity of telling him, that I was determined never more to be concerned in
any

any musical undertaking (or words of the same import) on his account; to which he faintly replied, "you have disqualified yourself." * This expression he has thought fit to give his readers, but has not vouchsafed to let them know on what occasion it was uttered; barely telling them he dismissed me with it. In short, the defection was so general, that I question if there were three persons in the whole band, but most heartily concurred in the same determination.

This best accounts for his crying out now, that he is sick of Oratorios, and his abusing Musicians in general. The grapes are sour! quoth the Fox in the Fable; and every-one knows the reason of his making that exclamation.

But now comes on the last blow, or finishing stroke: for having dismissed me with the above smart repartee, he proceeds thus; "The Doctor went muttering off, but played the landlord a different trick to what he served me; for after having called for wine in plenty, and heartily soaked it, I suppose, to give him spirits to support the battle he expected I should give him, he sheered off without paying the reckoning."

* In a manner, not unlike a boy at Winchester school, who was suspected to have been guilty of having purloined something from a school-fellow, and being examined, with others of the same chamber, upon it, by the Preceptor, contracted his lips, and making a kind of half-whistling, said, "*I'm sure a'most 'twa'n't I;*" looking, at the same time, somewhat foolishly.

This

This is an heavy charge indeed ! How shall I acquit myself of it ? shall I deny the fact ? no ; perhaps I cannot, intirely, with a safe conscience. What then must be done ?—— Why, I will even beg the reader's leave to state the case properly, and then throw myself at his feet, and implore his pardon and forgiveness, if, in his candour and judgement, he shall find me worthy of it.

When I came out of the Concert-room, and was directed into a little room below stairs, where Mr. Hanbury had been paying the other performers (though not there when I entered it) I took occasion to ask if there was a possibility of getting a glass of wine ? being, with the heat of the room, and the fatigue of the performances, in want of some refreshment ; I was answered in the affirmative ; upon which, I called for a gill, or half a pint of mountain. The latter was brought, and I drank a glass of it with the utmost glee imaginable ; for I was very thirsty. I believe the above quantity was repeated ; of both which, others also were partakers ; and such was the *plenty* called for, and such the *heartly soaking* thereof, that the sum total of the reckoning, had it been called for, would have amounted to the twentieth part of a pound sterling ; commonly called—**ONE SHILLING.** Now, whether or no this was placed wholly to my account, which it ought not to have been, I am not certain ; neither am I, that it was, or was not paid either
by

by me, or any other person. Nay, it is very possible that it was entirely forgotten ; or taken for granted that Mr. Hanbury ought to discharge it, as the general custom is, for those who have benefit concerts, to treat the performers with a few bottles of wine ; which, to the best of my recollection, Mr. Hanbury had not complied with, either at, or after, any of the performances. Be this as it may ; it cannot be supposed that it was left unpaid intentionally with design to cheat the landlord ; neither did Mr. Hanbury believe so, when he published this piece of scandal. He had hitherto been brandishing his *blackening-brush* about, and dashing it on matters that would by no means take the colour : but now, being determined to do his work effectually, he collected a large quantity of *foam* as it worked out from each corner of his mouth, occasioned by the overflowing of the bile, and dipping his instrument into it, he by way of a *finishing stroke*, gave me a lick across the face therewith ; saying, surely this must stick ; this is such a stain, as he will never be able to wash out.

To be serious, this was the last effort of his malice ; and as I would not willingly lie under such a reproach, without endeavouring to make honourable amends, I sent to Mr. Hargrave, soon after it came to my knowledge (being, I must own, much startled at it) desiring he would be so good to make enquiry at the Assembly Room, whether or no I stood charged,

on

on the above score, in the landlord's book ; and if I did, that he would pay it for me, and place it to my account.

When first I read the passage, I was really at a loss, to know what landlord he meant ; having totally forgotten the above circumstance. But upon recollection, I knew it could not be the landlord at the inn, because my reckoning was not separate from, but interwoven with, that of the whole company, who were equal sharers with me in every thing had there ; and consequently our payment was made conjointly. Besides, in the month of May, 1766, on my journey into the north of England, I dined at the same inn, viz. the White Lion ; and Mr. Deverill, the landlord, favoured me with his company : so that, had I been indebted to him, he certainly would have made his demand. And had I been the least conscious of the other debt, I should as certainly have taken that opportunity of expunging it.

Having given the best account I am capable of giving, in what manner this mighty debt (if it must be so deemed) was contracted, and endeavoured to discharge the mark of infamy, with which I have been branded, by the *charitable gentleman* so often mentioned ; I now humbly submit my cause to the decision of the more charitable reader ; leaving it with him to determine, which is most worthy of the scourge, him who contracted it, and without design omitted the payment thereof,

thereof, or him, who, without scruple or remorse, and contrary to every christian principle, hath published the scandal to the world, and aimed at fixing an indelible stigma on my moral character.

Not contented with this, he subjoins the following note at the bottom of p. 167.

“ I have been the more circumstantial in
 “ this relation as the Doctor has vindicated his
 “ conduct with so many untruths in all com-
 “ panies, of which, had I not been constantly
 “ informed, the Doctor and the Meeting
 “ should have both sunk together, without a
 “ syllable of either being mentioned.”

That I have endeavoured to vindicate my conduct as often as opportunity offered, is certain ; but that I have employed untruths in my vindication, I utterly deny. Mr. Hanbury is as much mistaken in this, whatsoever his informations, or whosoever his informers may have been, as in many other points. On all occasions I have constantly mentioned the same circumstances, and nearly as possible, in the same terms as above related ; and this seldom but when I was called upon, by the accounts given me of the fallacious tale he had invented, and propagated wherever he went, to my disadvantage. One instance of which is so remarkable, that I cannot withhold from giving it the reader.

Soon after his return from Nottingham, he took an opportunity of seeing the late Cosmas

H

Nevil,

Nevil, Esq; a very worthy gentleman in his neighbourhood, to whom I had the honour of being known ; and probably on this account he made him so early a visit, with the hopes of ruining my credit, not only with him, but through him with a noble Lord, nearly allied to him by marriage, and my truly honourable friend and patron. This furnished him, therefore, with a glorious opportunity of wounding me (as he hoped to have done) in the most tender point : but he was mistaken, notwithstanding his accusations were faithfully transmitted according to his expectation. The first time I waited on his Lordship after they came to his hand, he was so good to make me acquainted with them ; for which I thought myself not a little obliged, as it furnished me, also, with an opportunity of making my defence. The three grand points were, that the time had been fixed for my convenience ; that I had neglected to attend the first morning performance ; and, that by so doing I had lost him the taking of an hundred pounds.

The reader, I am persuaded, is sufficiently satisfied how little occasion I had to betake myself to the mean and dirty subterfuge of lying and falshood to confute these assertions, so false in themselves ; no ; I detest the thought ! Truth was my best defence : and, a bare relation of the facts, and the treatment I had met with, was sufficient to convince his Lordship, not only that the accusations were unjust, but
that

that I had been extremely ill used. His Lordship, who hath made planting one of his amusements (as is evident by the many beautiful scenes around his delightful mansion, which have been formed and adorned in the richest taste, by this means, under his sole direction) has often enquired of me what the nature of Mr. Hanbury's charity was, and what kind of plantations he had. Of both which particulars, I gave him such favourable accounts, that he was induced to say, he would take an opportunity of seeing the latter; and if he had put the scheme in execution, would probably have been a considerable purchaser. However when his Lordship heard my defence, he was of opinion the Founder's behaviour had been, with respect to the Nottingham meeting, very absurd and ridiculous.

This, when known, probably irritated the Gentleman (pardon my using an appellation so unmeritted) so much the more; and determined him to pursue his malicious intention still further. We now see to what a shameful length he has run. He has not only invented falsehoods to palliate his own mis-conduct, but to blacken and calumniate one who has been so much his friend, and has contributed so largely to the Charity: and after all,—published them to the world!

I would ask his friend the Lawyer, to how much less than perjury this amounts? He must, at least, allow it to be a *notorious breach*

of the NINTH COMMANDMENT : for I am not so uncharitable to suppose he does not understand *this* Law.

What then must his Reverence's feeling be, as often as he promulges that very Commandment at the Altar ! I pray God to make him sensible of his transgression, and to forgive him.

Whilst I was writing the above, the following Letters came to hand.

To Doctor Hayes, at Oxford.

DEAR SIR,

“ **I** Deferred writing to you, 'till I had seen
 “ Mr. Hanbury's Book, and shewn your Letter to the principal People in Nottingham,
 “ who attended the Oratorios. The Gentleman,
 “ who call'd out for an Apology, declares, he
 “ never heard any one say, knock that Fellow
 “ down : this is a Lye of Hanbury's making.
 “ He says, in a Note, that Dr. Berdmore
 “ offered the Ladies the Ante-church to toss Dr.
 “ Hayes in a Blanket. The Doctor owns he
 “ offered the Ladies the Ante-church to toss
 “ Hanbury in a Blanket:
 “ This dirty ——— says, when he had paid all
 “ the Expences, he found himself out of Pocket
 “ 5 l. odd shillings. If this is true he told me
 “ a great Lye when he call'd on me to thank me
 “ for the trouble I had given myself ; for he assured me he clear'd 50 l.

“ Poor

“ Poor Mrs. Tempest was so provoked at his
 “ mentioning her name with so much contempt,
 “ that, she sent for a Lawyer to ask him if she
 “ could not prosecute him for a Libel: the Law-
 “ yer replied——Madam! he is out of the
 “ reach of the Law, being not in his sober
 “ senses. I sent for the man who keeps the
 “ Assembly Room, to enquire, if you went away
 “ without paying for the Half-Pint of white
 “ wine: He did not understand what I meant
 “ ’till I read your Letter to him. He said, he
 “ remembered that I drank some wine after the
 “ Concert, as did most of the Performers; but
 “ as it was always the Custom for the Person
 “ whose benefit it was, to treat the Performers,
 “ he never thought of asking me or the rest of
 “ them to pay for a Glass of Wine. This
 “ morning I wrote to the Landlord at the White
 “ Lion, to ask if you bilk’d Him: inclos’d is
 “ his answer.”

[What follows relates to other matters;
 but resuming the former Subject, he concludes]
 “ I hope you will not give yourself any more
 “ concern about his malicious dirty ——.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your humble Servant,

“ HEN. HARGRAVE.”

To

To Mr. Hargrave.

White Lion, Nottingham, 18th Nov. 1767.

S I R,

“ *I Am sorry to find the Rev. Mr. Han-*
 “ *bury has so unjustly aspersed Dr. Hayes*
 “ *concerning leaving his Landlord unpaid at*
 “ *Nottingham, and more so, as the Doctor was*
 “ *so obliging as to make use of my house; where*
 “ *I can with great justice say of the Doctor and*
 “ *his company they behaved like Gentlemen, and*
 “ *paid their way as such. He has since been so*
 “ *obliging as to recommend several Gentlemen*
 “ *to my House, and the Doctor called upon me*
 “ *in his way to Durham; for which favours I*
 “ *return him my grateful thanks, and beg you'll*
 “ *be kind enough to let the Doctor know it will*
 “ *always give me great pleasure to see him, or*
 “ *any of his Friends at Nottingham, when and*
 “ *where I shall always use my utmost Endea-*
 “ *vours to oblige them, who am,*

“ *Sir, &c. &c.*

“ JOSEPH DEVERILL.”

These letters need no comment; and therefore I shall only beg leave to start a Query.
 If

If *fifty* pounds were gained at Nottingham, and only *five* pounds and some odd shillings accounted for, what went with the *forty-four* pounds and the other odd shillings?

I will not take upon me to say, he hath defrauded the charity of that sum; for I rather believe it was applied to make good former deficiencies: however, it is probable that the alternacy of *one* or the *other* must have been the case.

Hitherto no notice hath been taken of the contemptuous language with which he treats me, in several parts of his *decent* history; particularly where he pretends to be so greatly hurt by being under the necessity of apologizing on a public stage, like a master player, and, as he says, “ afterwards haranguing or disputing with “ a *Musician*; and though (as he is further “ pleased to say) in a good cause, yet with “ *such a fellow*.”

A Bystander might answer him thus. Don't be uneasy good Sir! the fellow with whom you disputed, is not so much beneath you, as in your anger you might imagine him: for if you look into the book of Graduates, you will find that his name is enrolled in two different catalogues therein; whereas, *yours* does not so much as once occur. Then look into the preface of the same book, and you will see that he has a right even to claim precedence of you: Not that he is vain of the honours done him by that truly venerable and respectable body
the

the UNIVERSITY, though he ever will retain the most grateful sense of the obligation; for if he was, no doubt he would have complied with your earnest request to have flourished away at Church-Langton, &c. &c. in his Robe; at least would not have refused so doing, had he complied with seeming reluctance. But you seem to think him despicable on account of his profession. Why so? was it not pointed out to him by Providence for his Support? St. Peter was taught by God himself, *not to call any man common or unclean*; in other words, not to despise any man, whatsoever his profession might be, provided an honest-one: *for he is no respecter of persons*. Perhaps you boast a better income than he, and thereon build your fancied superiority; be it so: he thanks God that his, with oeconomy, hath sufficiently enabled him to breed up, in virtuous principles, a numerous family; two of whom are in the same station with yourself, a third not undistinguished in his profession; not to mention several others———and, which is the comfort of his old age, they are all such as no man need to be ashamed of. He therefore humbly hopes the public will not repent of having honoured him with their generous encouragement: since their favours have not been misapplied, but employed to what, he flatters himself, will be deemed the most eligible purposes; the reputable maintenance of himself and family, and giving his children such an education

education as by God's grace will enable them to support themselves and families.

But to return to the reader : If Mr. Hanbury had not thought me worthy his notice, why did he employ me ? the employment was unsought by me ; and if he had not thought my profession and station in the University respectable, why did he honour them so far as to found an office of the same kind in his own ————what shall I call it ?——I mean that which is to take place about a thousand years hence ; before which time perhaps, nay it may be very soon (for we are not permitted to know the day or hour when it will happen)

*The cloud-capt Towers,
The gorgeous Palaces,
The solemn Temples,
The great Globe itself,
Yea all that it inherit
Shall dissolve,
And like the baseless fabric of a vision
Leave not a wreck behind.*

SHAKESPEAR.

In the course of so long a Narrative, I fear many inaccuracies must have been observed by the learned reader, but hope he will be so indulgent as to pardon them: for I do not pretend to be a writer, much less an elegant or correct one. It was not choice but ne-

I

cessity

cessity that put me upon making the trial. Had not Mr. Hanbury attacked me in so flagrant a manner, and gone so much out of his way for the sake of wreaking his malice and revenge, (for what business our dispute has in the History of his Charities, no one can conceive) he might have told the idle tale to his unbelieving neighbours as long as he pleased, and I should never have thought either *it*, or its *Author*, worth my notice. My chief aim hath been to make myself understood, in order to bring truth to light; and if I have so far succeeded, I need be under little concern for the elegance of style, as particular care hath been taken to advance nothing in my defence but what is strictly consistent with truth, and as such may be thoroughly relied on. But, if the least doubt can possibly remain, the following Attestation of those who accompanied me from Oxford to Nottingham, and were witnesses to almost every circumstance relating to that expedition, cannot fail of removing it.

WE whose Names are underwritten, having been witnesses to all that passed upon our journey in company with Dr. Hayes to Nottingham, from the time we set out in the afternoon of May the 29th, 1763, until all the performances at that place were over; and having perused the within Narrative do, as in conscience bound, attest the truth of the facts, with the various circumstances,

circumstances, so far as came within our knowledge, herein set forth and stated by the said Dr. Hayes.

Witness our Hands,

WILLIAM HAYES, *A. M. Clerk.*

LEWIS MAXEY, *A. B.*

BRADNAM TAWNEY, *A. B. Clerk.*

W^M. MATHEWS.

J. L A T E S.

Prefuming this will be satisfactory to every candid and impartial reader, ought not Mr. Hanbury to retract, and publicly to ask pardon (the only satisfaction he can possibly make) for having so unjustly aspersed my character?

This done, I shall then leave him to the enjoyment of his Hobby-horse, and the contemplation of his imaginary greatness.



A P P E N D I X.

IT hath already been mentioned, in the foregoing narrative, that I had relinquished my usual demand for the loan of books, for the sake of the charity, from the time of my being first engaged to conduct the music at Church-Langton. I must further acquaint the reader, that, at the first and second meeting, I also saved Mr. Hanbury the expence of carriage *to* and *from* that place, by taking them with me in the chaise. But at the third, the bulk and weight was so considerably encreased, that it was become impracticable for me to be the carrier of them any longer; and, what was still further unfavourable, some of the books had been so lately in use, that there was no opportunity left of sending them by any *regular carrier*: for the first day's performance at Langton, was advertised to be on Wednesday the eighth of July; whereas our Annual Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors, had been on Thursday the second, (the very day on which the Northampton Carrier set out from Oxford) and an Oratorio was performed, both that, and the following evening, in the Music-room; so that I was under the necessity
of

of employing a man with two horses and a cart to convey them thither. The extraordinary expence attending this expedient (the only probable one to succeed) as also the regular carriage of them back again was, without the least scruple, paid by Mr. Hanbury.

He paid the carriage likewise of a still larger quantity, *to* and *from* Leicester the year following. Why then the least difficulty should arise concerning the payment of that article for the Nottingham expedition, I believe no mortal can conceive; and yet difficulties have arisen, and the debt remains unpaid.

I do not charge its having been in that state wholly to Mr. Hanbury's account, but rather to my own tardiness, and not applying for it sooner; and yet I flatter myself, they were laudable *motives* which restrained me from it. First, I had written a Letter to Mr. Hanbury, immediately upon the return of the books, remonstrating upon the unjustness of his stopping so large a portion of Mr. Maxey's gratuity, and not without some tokens of resentment for the treatment I had met with; at the same time acquainting him with the sum which I had paid to the Northampton Carrier, on his account, desiring he would reimburse me as soon as possible. But after all, judging it would be more prudent to defer sending my letter, until I had reconsidered the contents of it, I did so; lest any thing should have escaped my pen, in the warmth of my then disposition, for which I
might

might afterwards be sorry. In short, I cooled so long upon it, that neither the letter I had written, nor any other was sent, during the first four years after the meeting.

The other was a motive of humanity : for having been informed that he was involved in a great deal of trouble on account of his trespasses, nay, that his living was then under sequestration, I thought it would be a cruelty to distress him further, by adding to the burthen, under which (according to the above information) he then laboured ; and therefore refrained from making my demand, until those clouds should happily be dispersed. But although it was suffered to lie dormant for so long a time, I had, by no means, given up my pretensions to the debt, being determined some time or other to demand it ; and doubted not in the least, as it was a just one, but Mr. Hanbury, whenever that should be, would readily pay it ; for, it was abundantly too *improbable* and *unreasonable* to be conceived, that the person for whose use the books had been freely lent, would either refuse to pay the carriage of them, or that he should expect me, who allowed him the use of them *gratis*, to stand to their travelling charges also. However, when his triumphant history came forth, it appeared that he had overcome all difficulties whatsoever ; and that he was so elate upon it, that he could not help spurning and bespattering, every creature who came in his way ; especially those
who

who had ever displeased him. As I was one of the *unhappy victims* of his *wantonness* (thinking it then a proper time) I sent him the following letter.

To the Reverend Mr. Hanbury.

S I R,

“ **Y**OU stand indebted to me the sum of
 “ £2. 18s. for the carriage of books from
 “ Oxford to Nottingham and back again; which
 “ sum I paid to the Northampton Carrier, who
 “ conveyed them thither by the most certain means
 “ that could be found to perform it within the
 “ time, though at a greater expence than could
 “ have been wished: however it was absolutely
 “ necessary.

“ When this account is settled, which I must
 “ insist upon being soon, I shall endeavour to settle
 “ one with you of much greater consequence; having
 “ already drawn up a narrative in defence
 “ of my character, which you have so scandalously
 “ aspersed; which, if published, will put yours
 “ in the most odious, ridiculous, and contemptible
 “ light. But as a proof of my lenity, I shall
 “ postpone the publication of it, until I know,
 “ whether or no, you are willing to make due satisfaction
 “ for the injury done. In order to
 “ which, I shall first call upon you by public
 “ Adver-

“ *Advertisement* * so to do: and if not com-
 “ plied with, I shall then lay open the whole
 “ proceeding before the world, in such a man-
 “ ner, and with such undeniable evidence, that
 “ cannot fail of thoroughly convincing it, how
 “ basely you have acted.

“ I am

“ Your much injured friend

Oxon,

Nov. 25, 1767.

“ W. HAYES.

To Doctor Hayes, at Oxford.

S I R,

“ **I** AM ordered by Mr. Hanbury to pay
 “ you £2. 18s. if it appears that he owes
 “ you the money. This therefore is to beg the
 “ favour of your letting me know what right
 “ you have to the demand. He tells me that
 “ he settled with you at Nottingham, and that
 “ even then you extorted some pounds from him,

* The reason why the advertisement here mentioned was not published, is, that in two of the following letters (one by Mr. Hanbury's Agent, the other by himself) there are such convincing tokens of an inflexibly stubborn and vindictive spirit, that it was judged to be useless; and that it would be more expedient to publish the narrative without farther delay than was necessary.

“ under

“ under a pretence that one of the voices that
 “ came with you was altered to a different
 “ part: But be this as it will, if your de-
 “ mand appears legal, it shall be immediately
 “ adjusted by Sir,

“ Your most humble Servant,

MAUNSELL HILL.

Market Harborow, Treasurer to the Society at
 Dec. 1st, 1767. Church Langton.

“ With regard to your threats, &c. I am
 “ pretty certain Mr. Hanbury will be ready
 “ to follow you (as far as is consistent with
 “ his character) thro’ any dance you may think
 “ proper to lead:—In his book he has set forth
 “ nothing but facts, as I am informed, and
 “ which he can support with such undeniable
 “ evidence as cannot fail of putting whatever
 “ you advance to the contrary in the most
 “ odious, ridiculous and contemptible light,
 “ and give further Demonstration to the word
 “ how basely you have acted. You make
 “ mention of your Lenity I am certain you have
 “ no right to expect any from him as you was
 “ (confessedly) above 100l. loss to him. And I
 “ believe every body must concur with me in this
 “ opinion, that you ought in Justice to make
 “ him due satisfaction for the injury done.”

To Mr. Maunsell Hill, &c.

S I R,

“ **T**HE debt I claim of Mr. Hanbury is a
 “ just and true one; occasioned by my de-
 “ positing money to the amount of the sum men-
 “ tioned in your letter, on his account; and
 “ which could not possibly be accounted for, at
 “ any former Reckoning, as it was not known
 “ then, what the expence wou’d be; nor was it
 “ demanded ’till sometime after my return from
 “ Nottingham. Mr. Hanbury therefore, if he
 “ has any honour or gratitude left, ought to dis-
 “ charge it immediately: Since it is for the
 “ carriage of books, which, with others, he had
 “ the use of, for five years successively, without
 “ paying me one shilling for the same.

“ As to his charge of my extorting any sum
 “ from him, on any account whatsoever, it is a
 “ scandalous falsehood; and of a piece with the
 “ rest of his assertions.

“ No person was engaged for any part but
 “ that which he performed, and with his appro-
 “ bation. This I can prove by the counterpart
 “ of a memorandum he made at the Somerset
 “ Coffee-house in London.

“ After all, if any such alteration had been
 “ made, it was manifestly for the better; i. e.
 “ from a chorus-part to a principal one, and
 “ therefore intitled to the full pay as such. But
 “ this gentleman (about whom only I had the
 “ least

" least dispute with Mr. Hanbury) was stipulated
 " for, and recommended as the only person ca-
 " pable of undertaking a certain principal cha-
 " racter in Samson : yet such was the great
 " man's regard to honour, merit, and justice,
 " that he abridged him of half his due reward !
 " nay, of half what he ought to have received,
 " had he been only a chorus finger ; and what
 " was frankly allowed to one who had no better
 " pretensions than as such (a wonderful proof of
 " his judgement !) not that he received one penny
 " more than his due : for the four gentlemen
 " who went from hence as singers were engaged
 " upon equal terms one with the other ; and con-
 " sequently the withholding a part from any one,
 " was a manifest piece of injustice.

" I have been the more circumstantial in this
 " particular, as it possibly may convince you, that
 " Mr. Hanbury has deceived his friends, as well
 " as others, by misrepresenting things ; and I
 " may venture to assure you, that he has not done
 " it more in this instance, than he has in every
 " other relating to the Nottingham Meeting,
 " which will be thoroughly proved,

" By Sir,

" Your humble Servant,

Oxon. Dec. 9, 1767.

" W. HAYES.

" Your postscript I consider as a meer Echo, and
 " shall pay no farther regard to it at present."

One would imagine, by the Treasurer's not answering this letter, that, if he be not convinced of the legality of the debt, he is, at least, ashamed of the Visitor's behaviour; and therefore washeth his hands of the correspondence. But if convinced, as he must be, he is bound in honour to discharge it; having given me his word that, provided my demand appeared legal, it should be immediately *adjusted by himself*. Moreover, the credit of the whole society is equally concerned, in the payment of all just demands on account of the charity. But hold, I am robbing the reader of a pleasure; by detaining him from the perusal of the following *polite* Epistle, vouchsafed me by the *Founder, Visitor, and perpetual Dictator* himself.

To Doctor Hayes, at Oxford.

S I R,

" *I* Have this moment received your Second
 " Letter from Mr. Hill, and it is somewhat
 " curious your pestering us in this manner about
 " nothing:—You know I dont owe you a farthing,
 " that I settled with and paid you all your De-
 " mands at Nottingham; you know that you was
 " to find the Books in Consequence of the 25th,*

* I did find him the *books* as usual; but Mr. Hanbury knows that he allowed me nearly this sum at Leicester the year before; and so much as either exceeded my usual gratuity was charged in proportion as the distance, time, and expences exceeded the former;

“ that it was on their account I applied to you,
 “ and that without them you could be of no ser-
 “ vice to me :—You know also that if any money
 “ had been due to you on any account you would
 “ have demanded it years ago ;—But as this is
 “ lately sprung up, we may justly conclude it to
 “ be the Effect of some Passion ; In short Sir,
 “ you are gall’d at my telling the truth, and that
 “ is the best thing that can be said in your Ex-
 “ cuse, and makes your wincing and kicking
 “ about in this manner admit of some Pallia-
 “ tion ;—You must not Expect however to fustle
 “ any money out of my Pocket, and to prevent

former ; exclusive of the carriage of the books, which had always
 been considered as a separate article. Nay, *he*, I believe with
 his own hand, paid the Leicester Carrier the whole that was
 charged by the Northampton carrier and himself, from Oxford,
 and back again, in 1762 : for I left the boxes (which contained
 them) in charge with him, to have them safely returned.

But he is pleased to say, “ it was on their account he ap-
 plied to me, and that without them I could be of no service
 to him.”—I am obliged to him for this *discovery*, as well as
 his intended *compliment* : for, *without books*, it is humbly appre-
 hended, the same might be said of every other performer. But
 where could he have found another person to furnish him with
 such a quantity of *music*, to supply the place of a finger, and
 to conduct the performances, for double the sum I demanded of
 him ? I considered the undertaking, as what might contribute
 to the preservation of my *health*, and perhaps afford some little
pleasure, by shifting the scene, more than with regard to the
pecuniary advantage which might arise from it.

When first my terms were fixed, I being a stranger to the
 situation of Church Langton, and its Accommodations, my
 chief concern was about a well-aired bed ; apprehending the
 novelty of the undertaking would bring together a vast con-
 course of people from distant parts ; I was soon made easy upon
 that account, by an assurance of being accommodated at the
 parsonage house ; but when I came there, the utmost that could
 be afforded me was only half a bed with Mr. Pinto. This
 however,

" *any further attempts of the like Nature, this*
 " *is to let you know, that you are denied the*
 " *Payment of any Sum whatsoever, and you*
 " *are hereby denied Payment, and you are de-*
 " *sired Speedily to use any redress you may think*
 " *proper.—I am Sir,*

" *Your most Humble Servant,*

" WM. HANBURY.

" *If you send any more Letters, pay the Post-*
 " *age, or they shall be returned unopened."*

however, disagreeable as it was to both, we enjoyed but two nights; for on the third we were both deprived of it, by Sir Francis Skipwith's staying to take a dance. It is remarkable that Mr. Hanbury speaks somewhat feelingly of the *cushion dance* particularly. Then alas! one of his servants beds fell to my lot, and Pinto spent the night with such company as he found at the neighbouring ale-house (for inn there was none) and better had it been for me, had I done so too: for what with the hardness of the bed, and the noise in the room adjoining, where all the company after their dance supped, I had not a wink of sleep; so that, instead of being refreshed, I was more fatigued than when I lay down. As to eating and drinking, it was much of a piece: for I had not one comfortable meal while I was there; the best was at a sixpenny ordinary. 'Tis true, I might have dined in the booth or tent, which was an awning thrown over a slight frame, the floor of which was nothing but the bare earth, and standing pretty much exposed in a large field. This was by no means proper for me who came reeking hot out of the church; I therefore preferred the other, to avoid getting cold. However, the two years following, I determined not to be liable to these inconveniencies; and accordingly took up my abode at Harborough (three miles and three quarters distant) as did most of the other performers theirs; where we took our breakfast each morning, ordered dinner to be ready at a certain hour, then set out for Langton, did our business, returned to Harborough, and spent the remainder of each day (tho' at separate houses) very comfortably.

What

What pity it is, that Mr. Hanbury should have put himself, or the charity, to the expence of having a painter from London to draw his picture ; when it appears by the present, as well as a former proof, how very capable he was of performing it himself.

Here you have him at full length, in the most lively and lasting colours. The observer need not place himself in any particular situation in order to view *this picture* to advantage :* for it will always be the same, from whatever point it is viewed.

It hath ever been deemed an excellence in a painter, who, exclusive of delineating the external features properly, could give such touches of *expression* and *character*, as should sufficiently indicate the true *turn* and *temper* of the mind : this excellence hath Mr. Hanbury attained to, in the highest perfection : inso-much that whoever views the picture before us, without being deeply skilled in Physiognomy, will be able, at first sight, to discover his real *temper* and *disposition*. In short, the picture is so very like in all respects, that we may write over it, by the way of motto,

Behold the Man !

Read him, and take him.

* Vide note, pag. 41, of the foregoing narrative.

F I N I S.